GARGOYLES

a STUDY IN STONE

"THEY ARE FASCINATING CREATURES..."

...THESE *GARGOYLES.*

I ALMOST HAD THEM, OWEN. THEY WERE ***MINE***, ALONG WITH THIS CASTLE. BOUGHT AND PAID FOR.

BUT THEY ***REBELLED.***

YES, SIR.

JZ 211-1

LET'S REVIEW WHAT WE KNOW, SHALL WE?

IF YOU WISH, SIR. ≥AHEM≤...

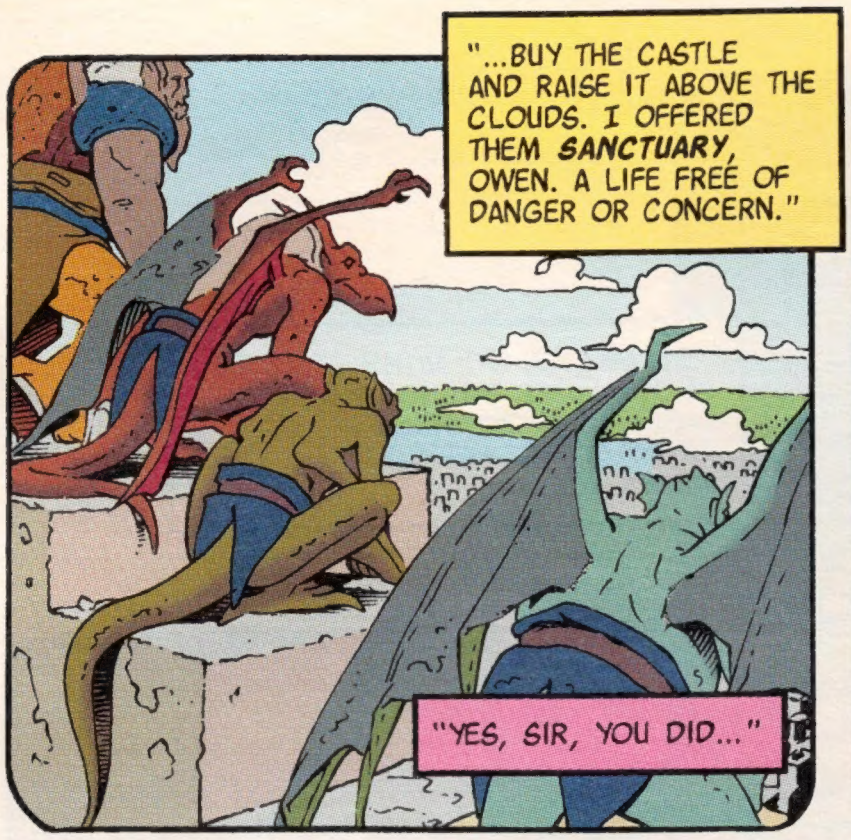
FILE NAME: GARGOYLES

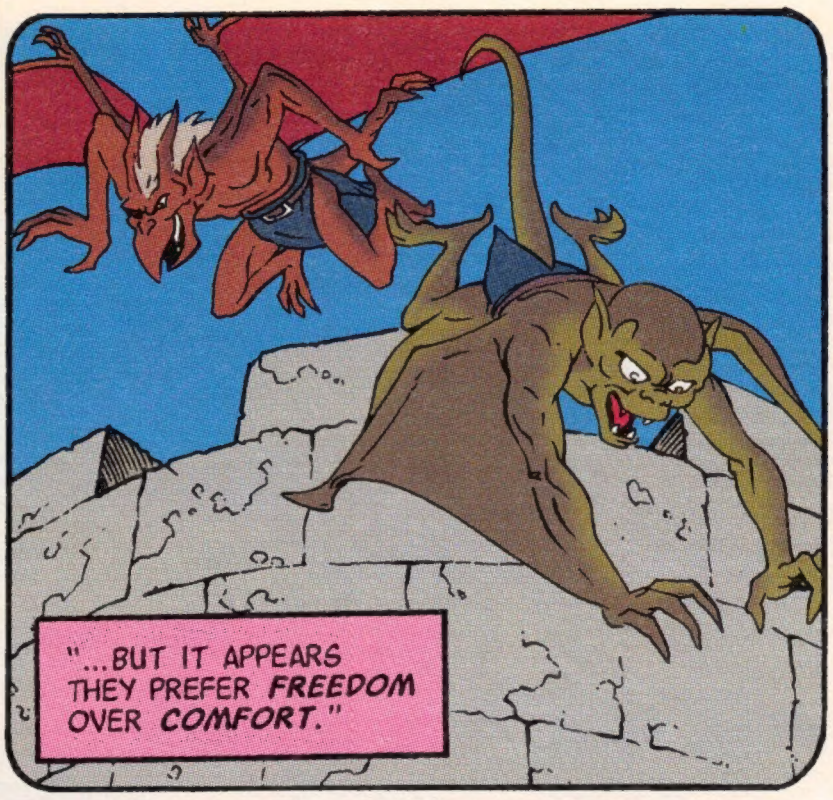
"YOU FOUND THE CASTLE AND THE GARGOYLES IN SCOTLAND, MONTHS AGO.

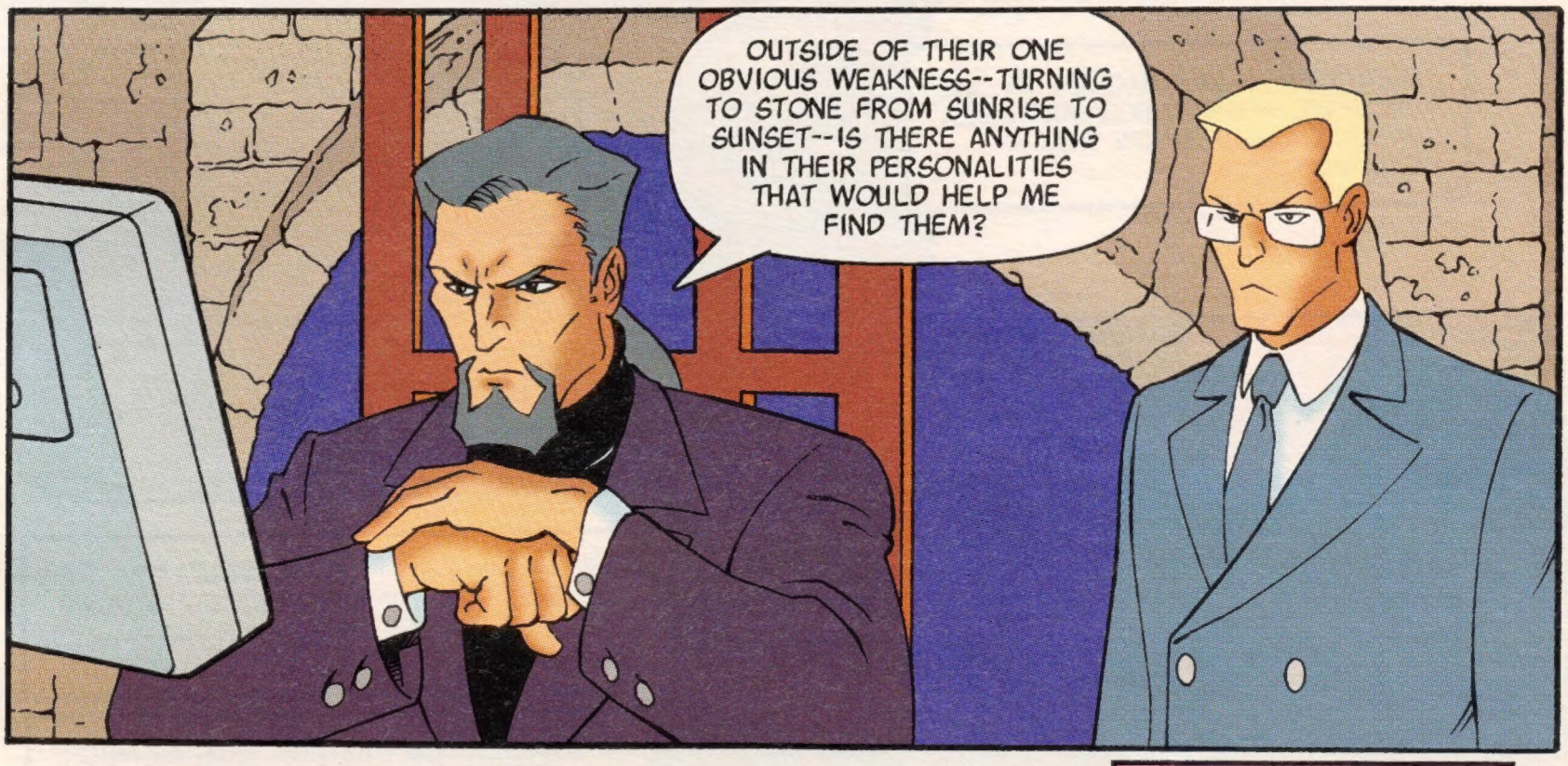
"THEY HAD BEEN TURNED TO STONE BY A SPELL THAT WOULD KEEP THEM THAT WAY UNTIL THE CASTLE ROSE ABOVE THE CLOUDS."

"YES, THE SOLUTION SEEMED EASY ENOUGH..."

Writer: Michael Reaves Pencils: Pat McEown Inks: Ian Akin Lettering: Bill Spicer Coloring: Sam Parsons

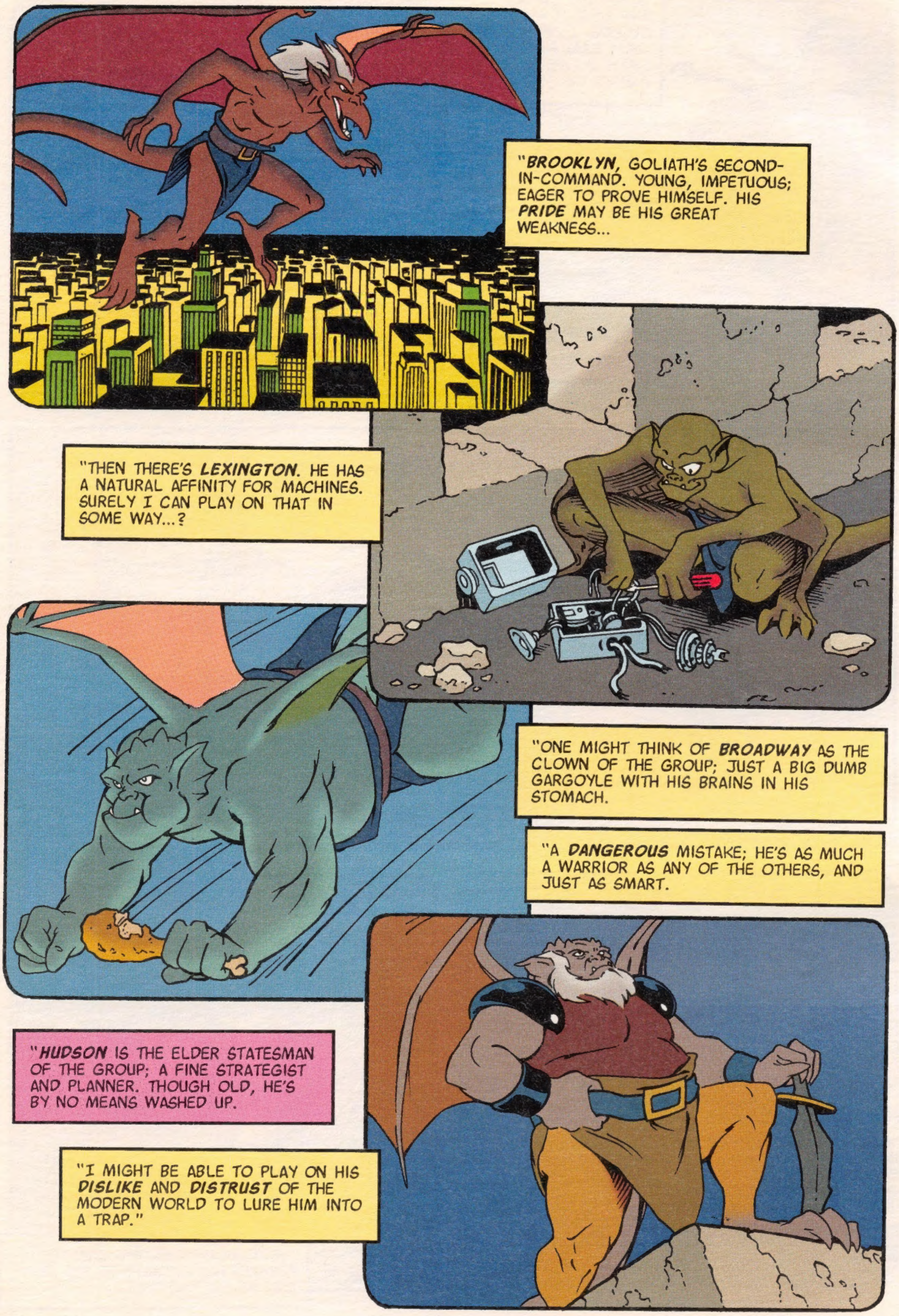

"...BUY THE CASTLE AND RAISE IT ABOVE THE CLOUDS. I OFFERED THEM SANCTUARY, OWEN. A LIFE FREE OF DANGER OR CONCERN."
"YES, SIR, YOU DID..."

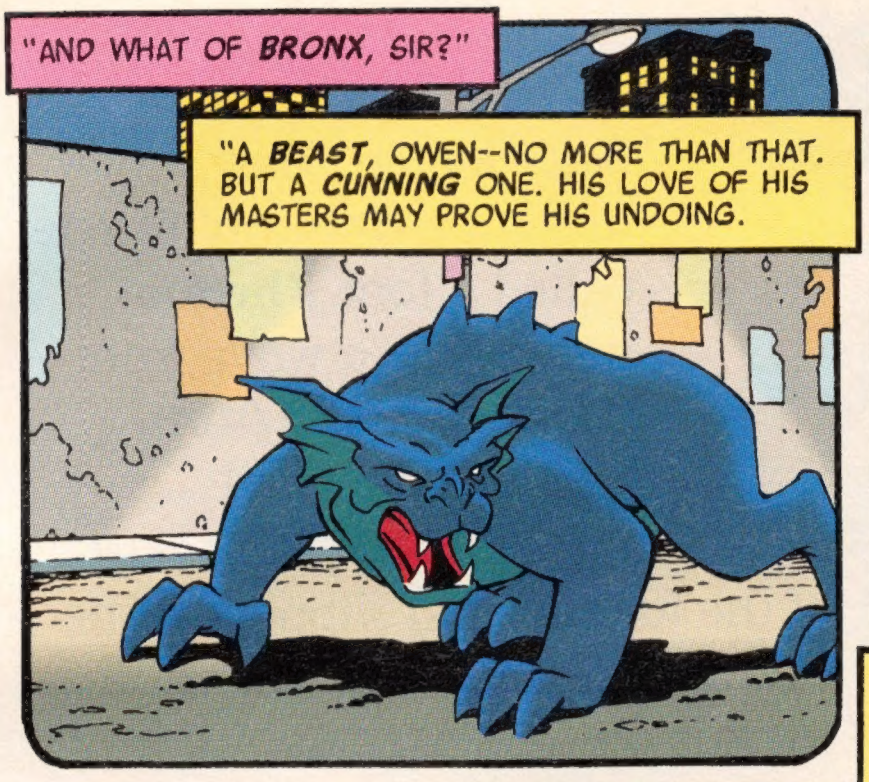

"...BUT IT APPEARS THEY PREFER FREEDOM OVER COMFORT."

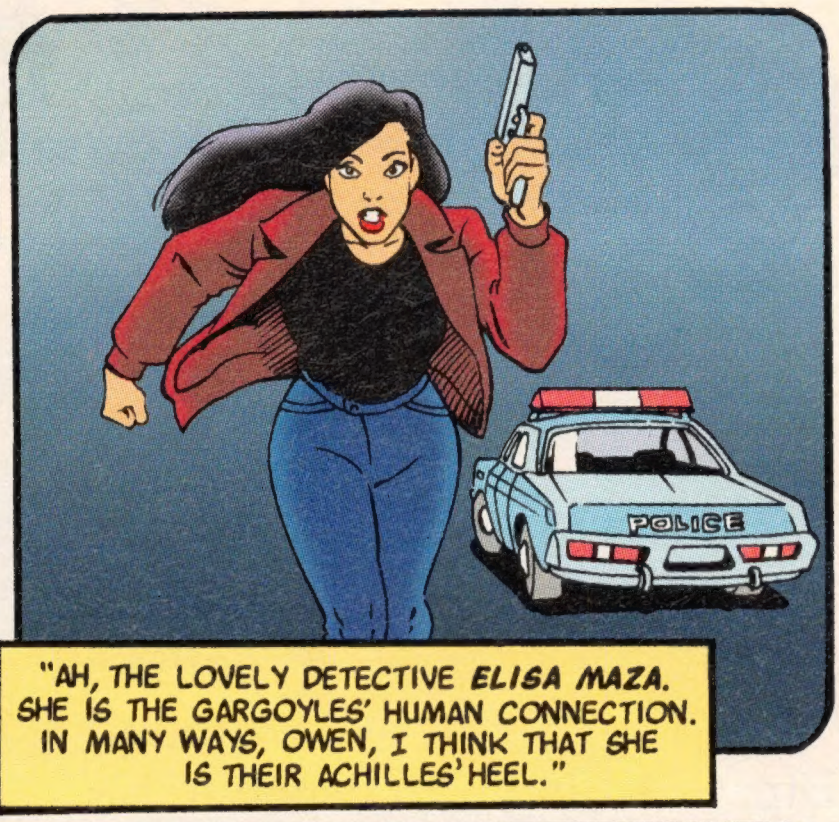

OUTSIDE OF THEIR ONE OBVIOUS WEAKNESS--TURNING TO STONE FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET--IS THERE ANYTHING IN THEIR PERSONALITIES THAT WOULD HELP ME FIND THEM?

"GOLIATH, THEIR LEADER. AN INTELLIGENT CREATURE, FIERCELY LOYAL TO THE REST OF HIS CLAN AND THE HUMANS UNDER HIS PROTECTION.
"HIS STRENGTH IS THAT OF TEN MEN OR MORE; HIS ANGER TRULY AWESOME."

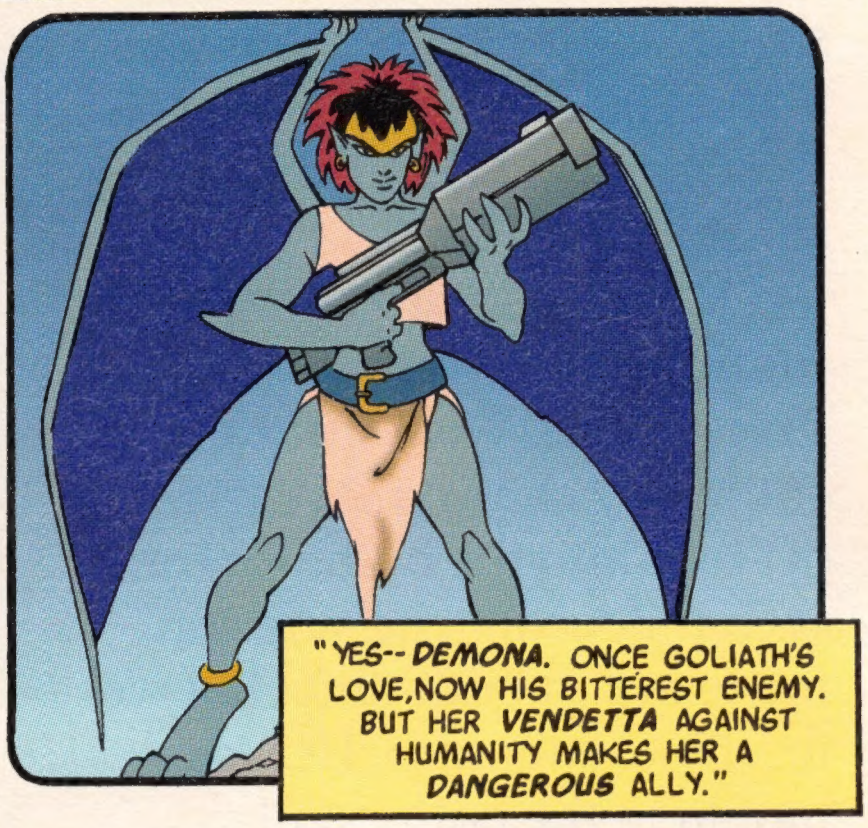
"THERE APPEARS TO BE NO WAY TO DEFEAT HIM IN DIRECT COMBAT, SIR."
"TRUE; HEAVEN KNOWS I'VE TRIED. PERHAPS HIS LOYALTY TO HIS CLAN CAN BE HIS UNDOING.


"BROOKLYN, GOLIATH'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND. YOUNG, IMPETUOUS; EAGER TO PROVE HIMSELF. HIS PRIDE MAY BE HIS GREAT WEAKNESS...
"THEN THERE'S LEXINGTON. HE HAS A NATURAL AFFINITY FOR MACHINES. SURELY I CAN PLAY ON THAT IN SOME WAY...?
"ONE MIGHT THINK OF BROADWAY AS THE CLOWN OF THE GROUP; JUST A BIG DUMB GARGOYLE WITH HIS BRAINS IN HIS STOMACH.
"A DANGEROUS MISTAKE; HE'S AS MUCH A WARRIOR AS ANY OF THE OTHERS, AND JUST AS SMART.
"HUDSON IS THE ELDER STATESMAN OF THE GROUP; A FINE STRATEGIST AND PLANNER. THOUGH OLD, HE'S BY NO MEANS WASHED UP.
"I MIGHT BE ABLE TO PLAY ON HIS DISLIKE AND DISTRUST OF THE MODERN WORLD TO LURE HIM INTO A TRAP."


"AND WHAT OF BRONX, SIR?"
"A BEAST, OWEN--NO MORE THAN THAT. BUT A CUNNING ONE. HIS LOVE OF HIS MASTERS MAY PROVE HIS UNDOING.


POLICE
"AH, THE LOVELY DETECTIVE ELISA MAZA. SHE IS THE GARGOYLES' HUMAN CONNECTION. IN MANY WAYS, OWEN, I THINK THAT SHE IS THEIR ACHILLES' HEEL."

THAT'S ALL THE GARGOYLES THAT WE KNOW OF--
NOT QUITE, SIR. YOU'VE FORGOTTEN...


"YES--DEMONA. ONCE GOLIATH'S LOVE, NOW HIS BITTEREST ENEMY. BUT HER VENDETTA AGAINST HUMANITY MAKES HER A DANGEROUS ALLY."

THIS LITTLE REVIEW HAS BEEN QUITE ENLIGHTENING. I'M READY TO PLUNGE BACK INTO THE FRAY. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME, OWEN. THE GARGOYLES WILL BE MINE ONCE MORE.
END